

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 1, 16, and 19 are amended, and claims 21-24 are added. A corrected IDS is attached that has the correct number for document 2003/0090093 A1. Claim 16 is amended to have the collar portion clamp onto the inflator in order to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. Claim 4 is amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the diffuser element, which is now added in claim 1. Claim 19 is amended to delete the word "helps" for better form. The deletion of the word "helps" was not done to further distinguish claim 19 from the prior art.

Claims 1-3, 9, 17, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Enders. Claims 4-8, 10-16, 19, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enders in view of Einsiedel et al. Claim 1 is amended to recite that the inflation fluid distribution manifold is clamped to the diffuser and threadily connectable with said first and second fill tubes, and the manifold receives inflation fluid flow from the diffuser. Neither Enders nor Einsiedel nor any other prior art either alone or in combination disclose or suggest that the inflation fluid distribution manifold is clamped to the diffuser and threadily connectable with said first and second fill tubes, and the manifold receives inflation fluid flow from the diffuser.

By contrast, Enders only discloses that the gas guide 80 can be connected to the inflation channel 94. Enders fails to disclose or suggest that the gas guide is threadily connectable with first and second fill tubes. Further, Enders does not disclose a diffuser.

Einsiedel discloses that the housing 13 and holder clamp 22 with plug 16 are pressed against the gas generator 11 and tensioned by a tension band 17. Einseidel fails to disclose or suggest that the housing 13 and holder clamp 22 with plug 16 are threadily connectable with first and second fill tubes. Therefore, in view of the above-mentioned reasons, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-18 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein.

Independent claim 19 is amended to recite that the collar portion comprises first and second collar parts each having an inner surface and at least a flange portion. The flange portion of the first collar part faces the flange portion of the second collar part. The first and second collar parts are connectable with each other at the flange portions. Neither Enders nor Einsiedel nor any other prior art either alone or in combination disclose or suggest first and second collar parts that each have at least a flange portion. Further, neither Enders nor Einsiedel nor any other prior art either alone or in combination disclose or suggest flange portions that face each other. Moreover, neither Enders nor Einsiedel nor any other prior art either alone or in combination

disclose or suggest first and second collar parts that are connectable with each other at flange portions.

By contrast, Enders only discloses that the gas guide 80 can be connected to the inflation channel 94. Enders fails to disclose or suggest any such flanges at all on the gas guide. Einsiedel discloses that the housing 13 and holder clamp 22 with plug 16 are pressed against the gas generator 11 and tensioned by a tension band 17. Einseidel fails to disclose or suggest any such flanges at all on the housing 13 or holder clamp 22. Therefore, in view of the above-mentioned reasons, claim 19 is allowable. Claims 20, 23, and 24 depend from claim 1 and are therefore allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein.

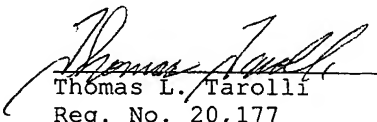
New claim 21, which depends from claim 19, should be allowed for the same reasons as claim 19 and also for the additional features that the first collar has another flange, the flanges of the first collar being positioned on opposite sides of the outlet portion, the second collar having another flange, and the flanges of the second collar being positioned on opposite sides of the outlet portion and facing the flanges of the first collar. Neither Enders nor Einsiedel nor any other prior art either alone or in combination disclose or suggest this feature. Therefore, claim 21 is allowable.

New claim 22, which depends from claim 21, should be allowed for the same reasons as claim 19 and also for the additional feature that the flanges facing each other are fastened together by a screw. Neither Enders nor Einsiedel nor any other prior art either alone or in combination

disclose or suggest this feature. Therefore, claim 22 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the amendment be entered and the application allowed. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,


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